

ALASKA PENINSULA AND ALEUTIAN ISLANDS MANAGEMENT AREAS
HERRING SAC ROE MANAGEMENT PLAN, 1992

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INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide commercial herring fishermen and buyers with management information and guidelines for participating in the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Areas herring sac roe fisheries.

The Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Areas (Figures 1-2) are described as Management Area "M" and are divided into three subareas: (1) the South Peninsula, consisting of Pacific Ocean coastal waters extending west of Kupreanof Point to 163°30' W. long. (the south side of Unimak Island near Cape Lazaref); (2) the Aleutian Islands, consisting of Bering Sea waters extending west of Unimak Pass and Pacific Ocean waters extending west of 163°30' W. long. (the south side of Unimak Island near Cape Lazaref) to the international dateline; and (3) the North Peninsula, consisting of Bering Sea waters extending west from Cape Menshikof to Cape Sarichef (Figures 3-9).

The South Peninsula sac roe fishery has occurred annually since 1979 (except in 1983, the Board of Fish allocated the entire sac roe catch to the food and bait fishery), while the North Peninsula fishery has occurred annually since 1982 (Table 1; McCullough 1991). All fisheries continue to be open-to-entry. The sac roe fisheries target on individual herring stocks during their spawning period. The desired product during the sac roe fisheries is pre-spawn herring having a roe recovery of about 10%. The Aleutian Islands Area has had no sac roe deliveries. The South Peninsula sac roe fishery has averaged 295.1 tons (1987-91 average). The North Peninsula sac roe fishery has averaged 627.3 tons (1987-91 average). Both purse seine and set gill net gear have been used, but set gill net gear has not been used with much success.

The commercial fisheries are intended to occur with minimal waste of the resource and within conservation limits as determined by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). ADF&G will not manage the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Areas herring sac roe harvest to enhance the value of the landed product, because adequate information is not available in-season (ADF&G 1991; 5 AAC 27.059). Roe recovery will not be a criteria for emergency openings or closures except in cases where documented excessive wastage is, or is expected to be a factor. Permit holders are encouraged to check with their markets prior to fishing to determine roe percentages which are acceptable to the industry. ADF&G will manage the fisheries per the statewide general herring guideline harvest policy which provides for harvests not to exceed 20% of the available spawning biomass (ADF&G 1991; 5 AAC 27.060).

Management units with guideline harvest levels (Table 2) are treated as areas with individual stocks and have a history of sac roe harvests. Management units lacking historic harvests and biomass estimates are open for exploration and may potentially support sac roe fisheries, or are management units where fisheries occur outside of bays and lagoons and are not perceived to have habitat suitable for herring spawning. Due to the lack of data from exploratory areas, annual harvest levels may fluctuate considerably until the stock status within each area is understood.

In-season emergency order closures for each area will occur as the guideline harvest levels for each unit are achieved. Closures may also result prior to attaining a guideline harvest level if the fishery performance or aerial surveys

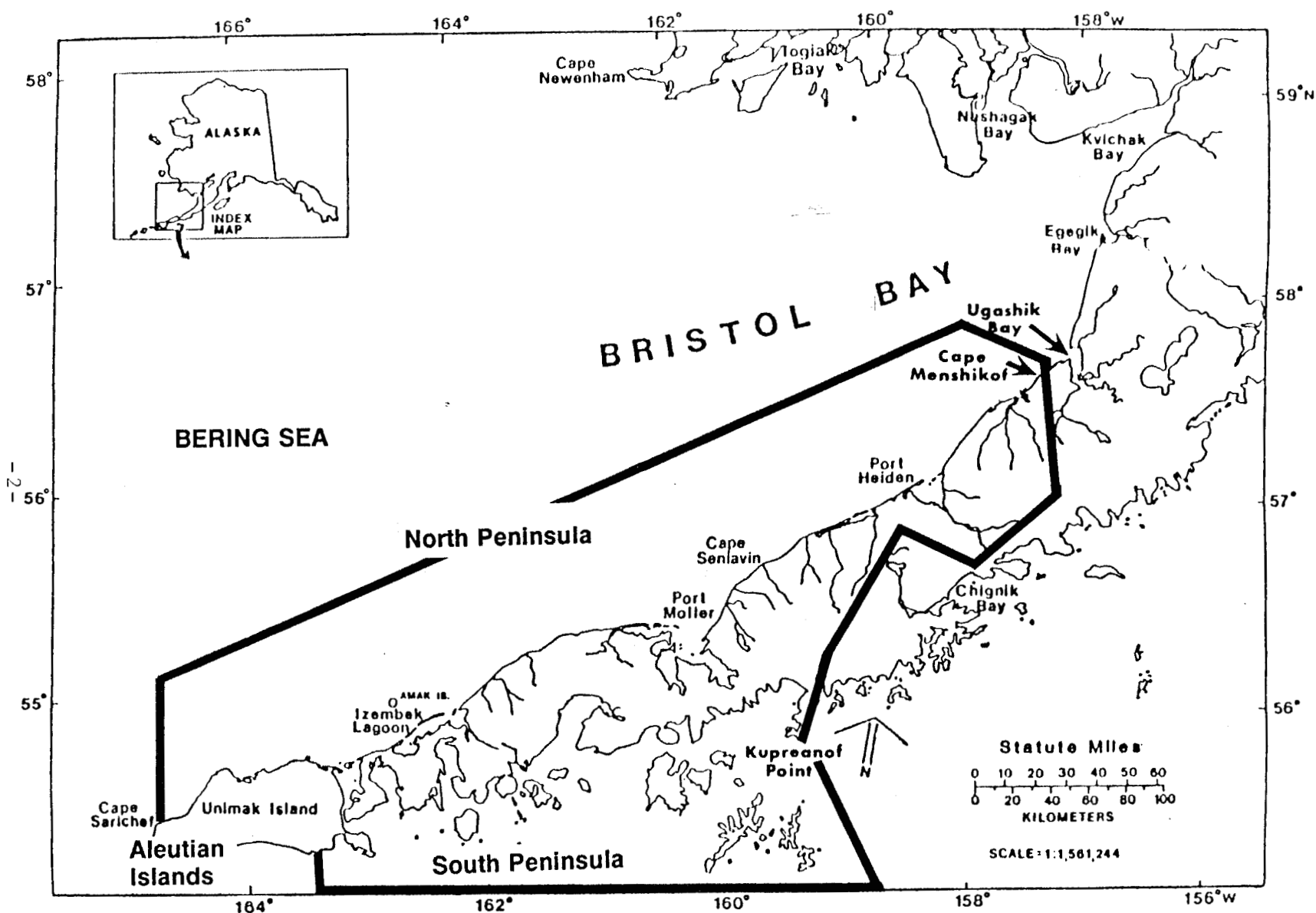


Figure 1. Map of the Alaska Peninsula, the study area on the Pacific Ocean portion of the map is from Kupreanof Point to Unimak Island and on the Bering Sea from Unimak Island to Cape Menshikof.

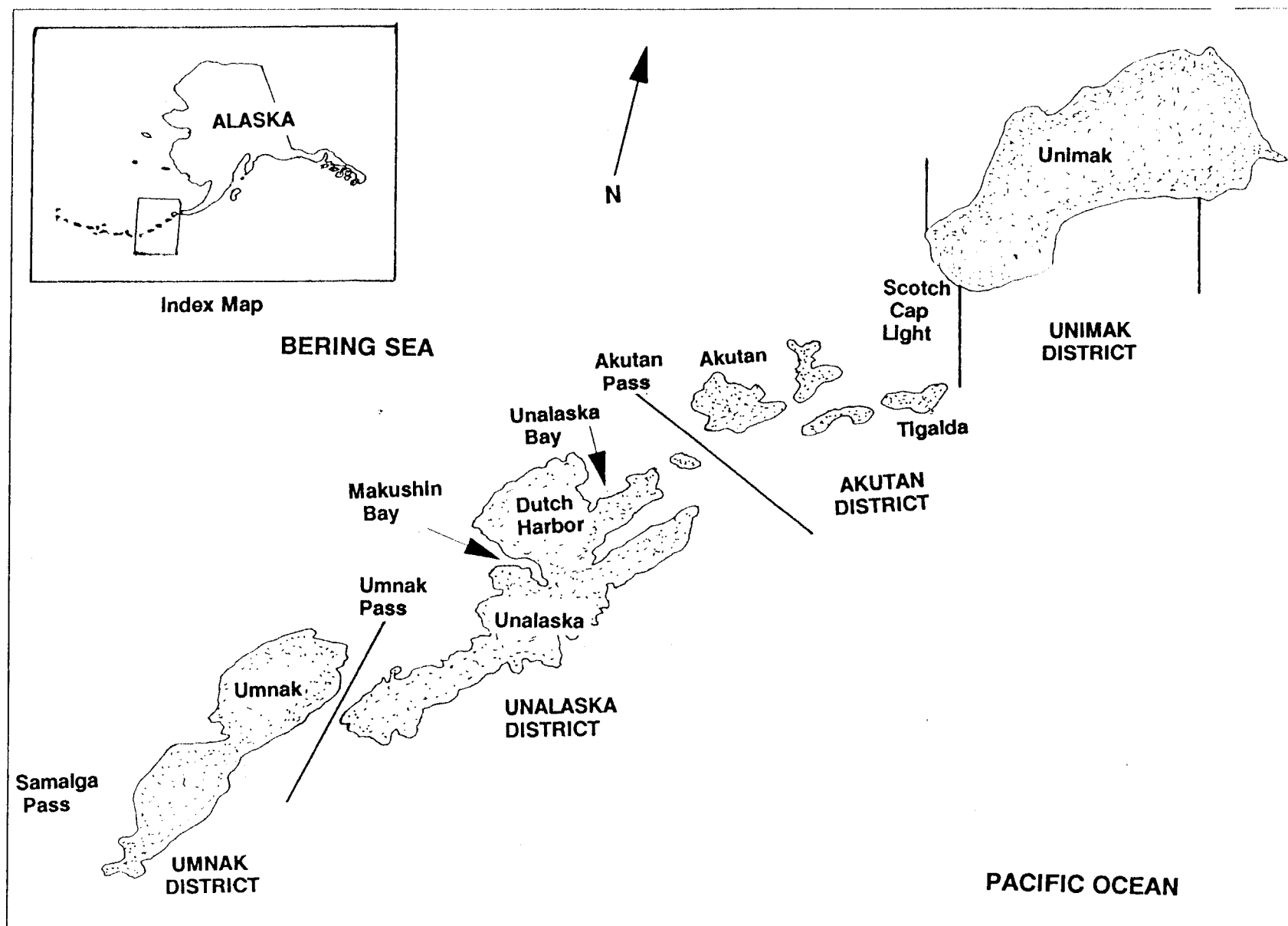


Figure 2. Map of the Eastern Aleutian Islands, the study area includes the Unimak, Akutan, and Unalaska Districts and that portion of the Umnak District east of Samalga Pass.

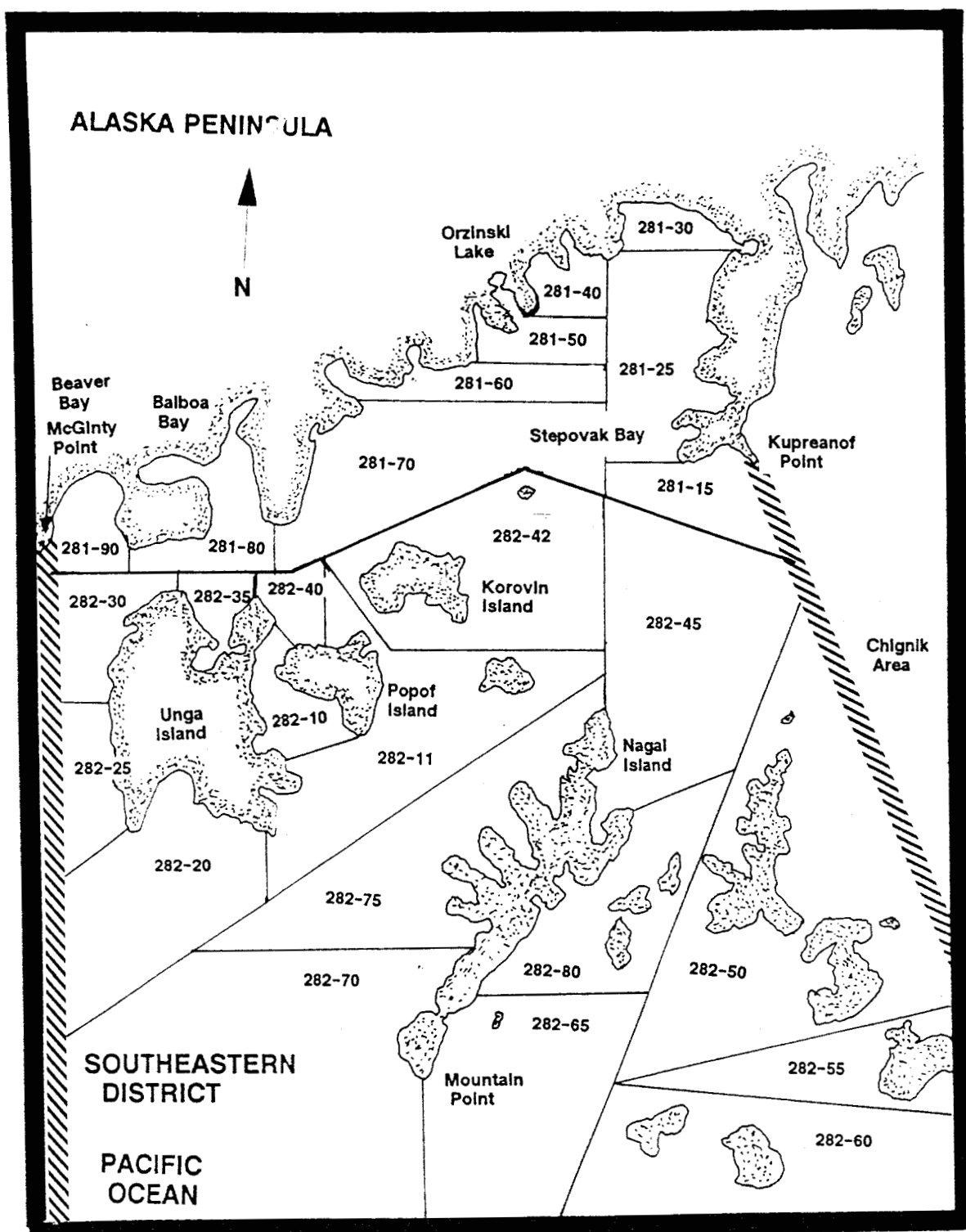


Figure 3. Map of the Alaska Peninsula Area from Kupreanof Point to McGinty Point, Southeastern District, with the statistical herring fishing areas shown.

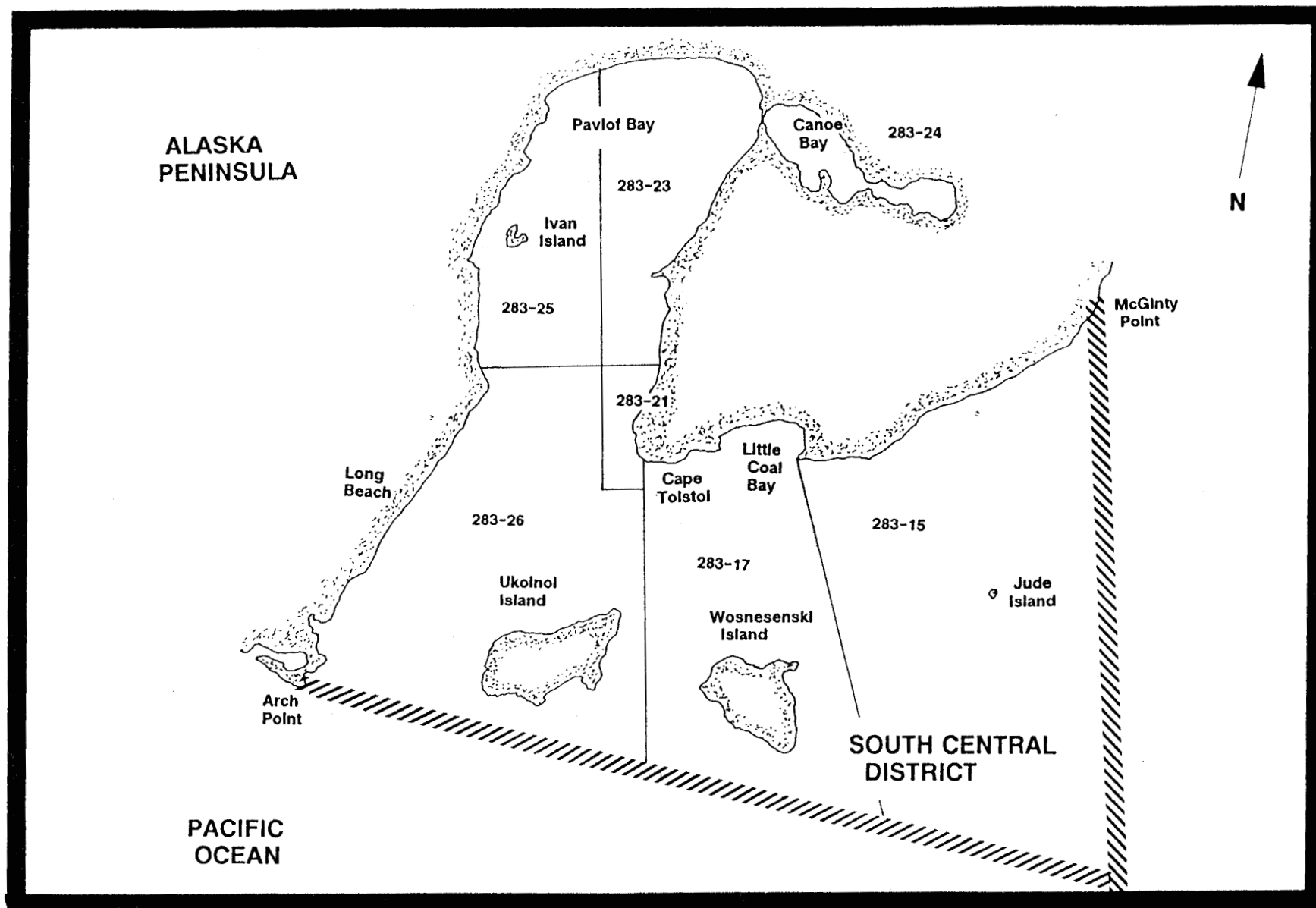


Figure 4. Map of the Alaska Peninsula Area from McGinty Point to Arch Point, South Central District, with the statistical herring fishing areas shown.

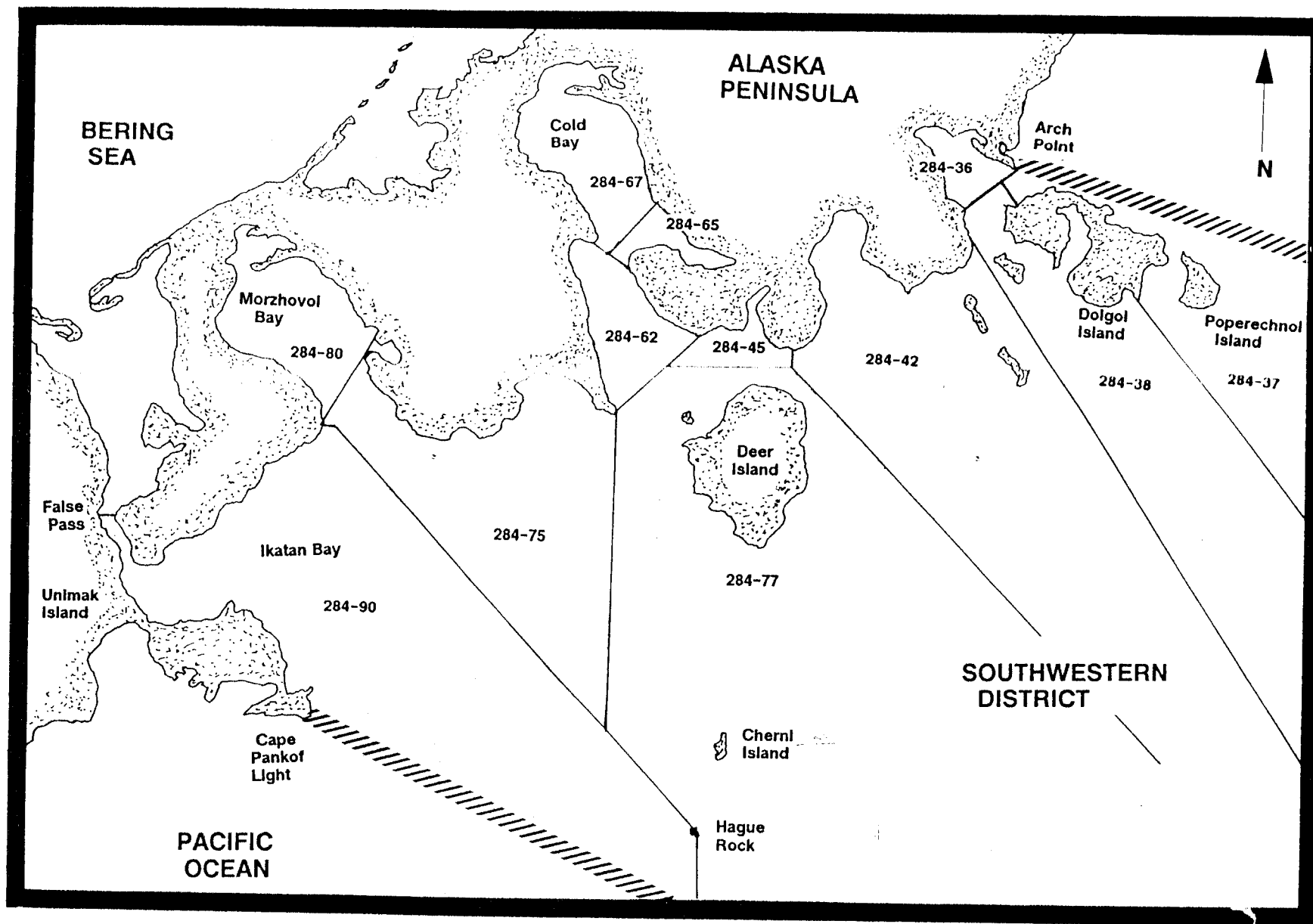


Figure 5. Map of the Alaska Peninsula Area from Arch Point to Cape Pankof Light, Southwestern District, with the statistical herring fishing areas shown.

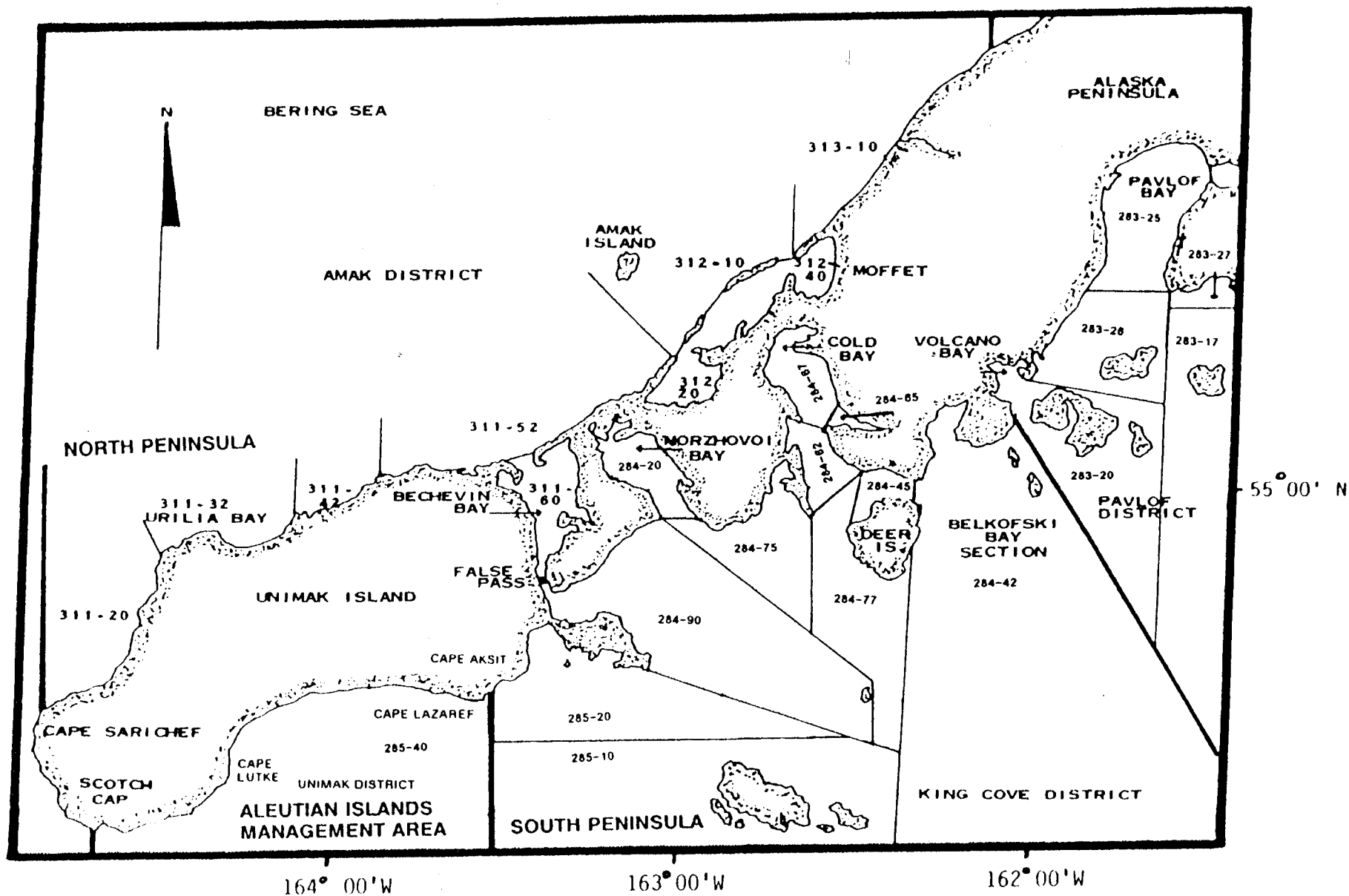


Figure 6. Map of the Alaska Peninsula Area from Pavlof Bay to Scotch Cap with the statistical herring fishing areas shown.

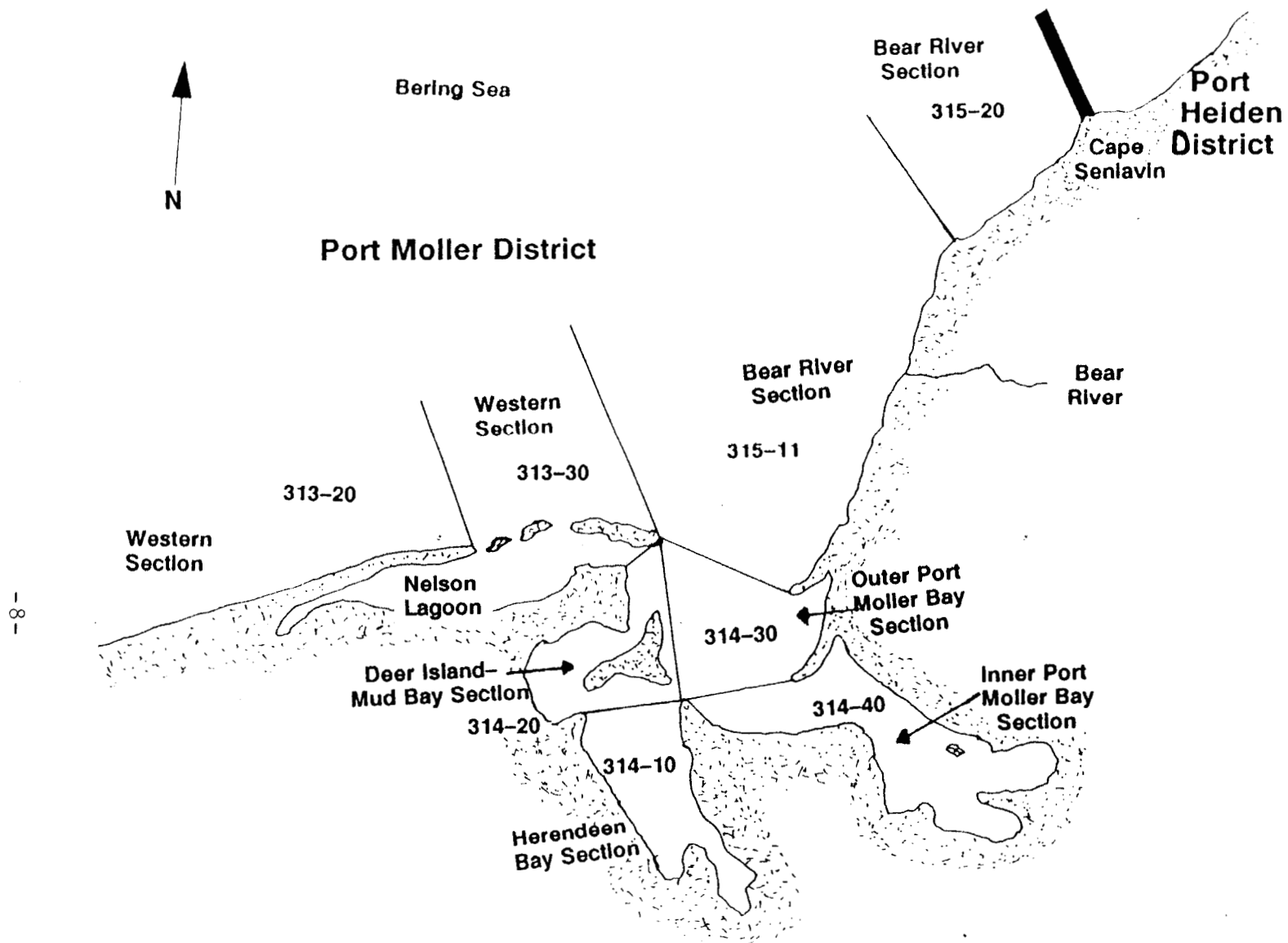


Figure 7. Map of the Alaska Peninsula Area from Cape Seniavin to Nelson Lagoon, Port Moller District, with the statistical herring fishing areas shown.

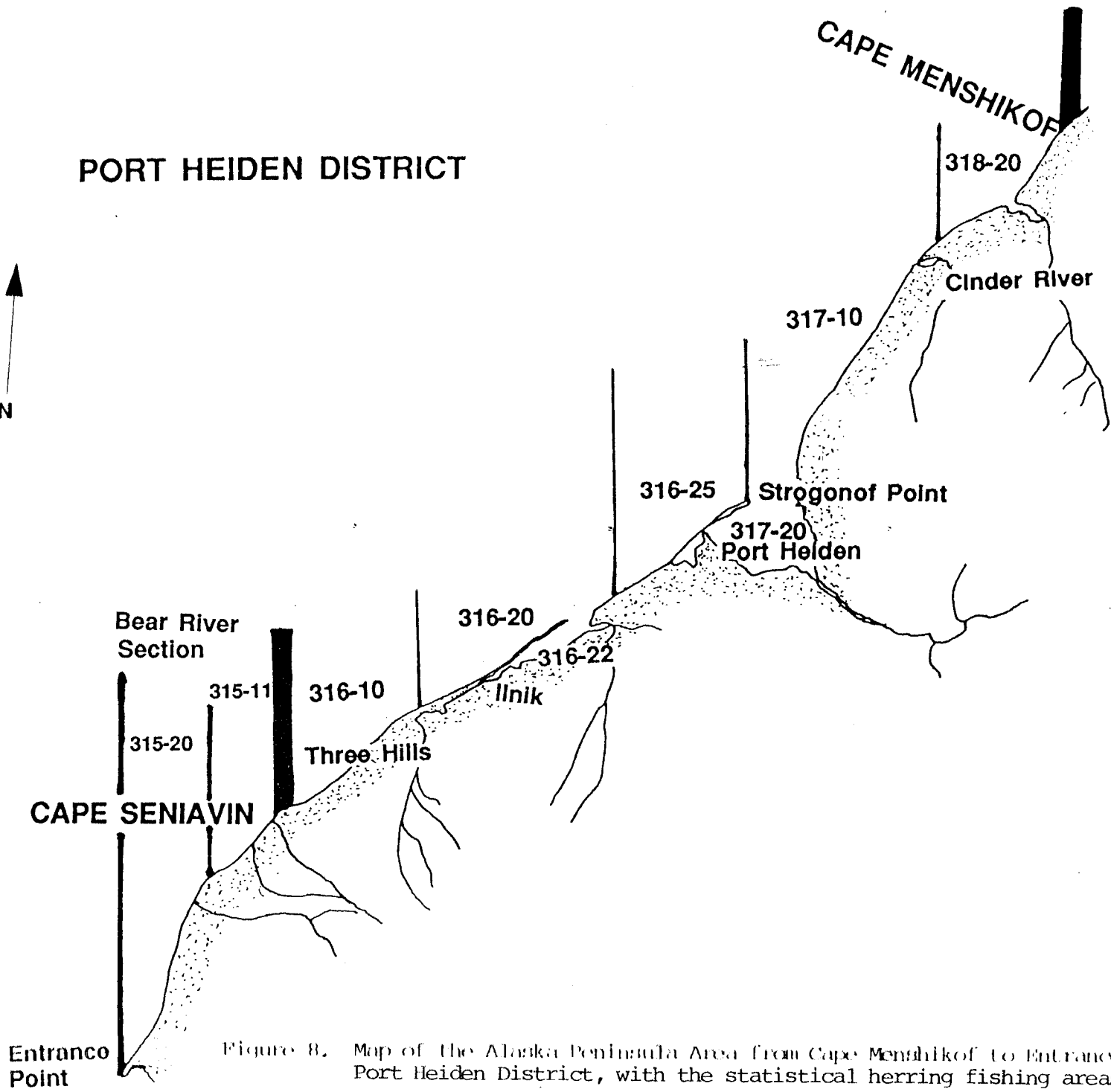


Figure 8. Map of the Alaska Peninsula Area from Cape Menashikof to Entrance Point, Port Heiden District, with the statistical herring fishing areas shown.

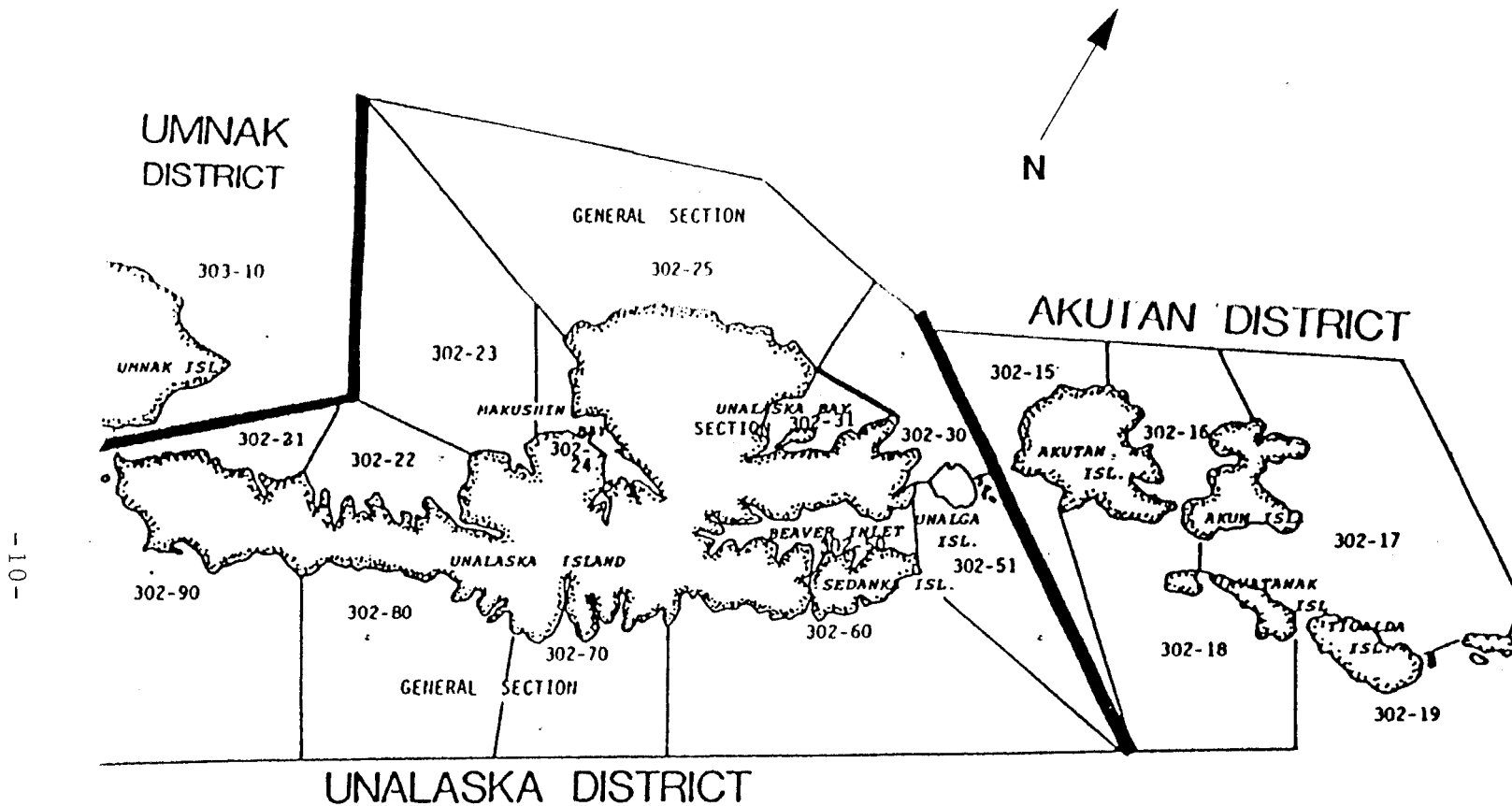


Figure 9. Map of the Aleutian Islands Area from Tigalda Island to Umnak Island with the statistical herring fishing areas shown.

Table 1. Alaska Peninsula Management Area herring sac roe catch, in short tons, by area and period, 1979-91.

Year	South Peninsula		North Peninsula		Total Catch
	Catch	Period	Catch	Period	
1979	10.1	July 4-July 4	0.0		10.1
1980	453.0	May 18-July 14	0.0		453.0
1981	787.0	May 9-June 23	0.0		787.0
1982	176.2	May 31-June 14	513.5	May 31-June 12	689.7
1983	0.0		637.5	May 9-May 29	637.5
1984	210.4	May 13-June 1	431.2	May 24-June 8	641.6
1985	345.0	June 1-June 11	716.0	May 24-June 4	1,061.0
1986	281.5	June 7-June 14	888.9	May 18-May 30	1,170.4
1987	319.0	June 8-June 19	512.4	May 9-June 5	831.4
1988	376.8	May 31-June 20	293.7	May 17-June 15	670.5
1989	310.0	May 13-June 19	744.7	May 28-June 23	1,054.7
1990	312.2	May 14-June 14	272.8	June 4-June 19	585.0
1991	157.4	May 16-June 11	1,313.0	May 17-July 4	1,470.5
Average ¹	295.1		627.3		922.4

¹Five year, 1987-91 average.

Table 2. Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Areas Herring sac roe harvest guideline levels, in short tons, by management area, 1992.^{1&2}

Management Area	Guideline Harvest Level Sac Roe Harvest
South Peninsula	
Sand Point District	
Stepovak Bay Section	60
Swedania Point-Balboa Bay Section	15
Point Aliaksin-Beaver Bay Section	15
General Section	3
Pavlof District	
Canoe Bay Section	100
Pavlof Bay Section	25
Seal Cape-Wosnesenski Section	3
General Section (Volcano Bay)	20
King Cove District	
Belkofski Section	25
Deer Passage Section	15
Cold Bay Section	25
General Section	3
South Peninsula Total	300
North Peninsula	
Amak District	3
Port Moller District ⁴	
Western Section	3
Deer Island Section	5
Herendeen Bay Section	150
Inner Moller Bay Section	150
Outer Moller Bay	150
Bear River Section	50 ⁶
Port Heiden District ^{3&4}	
North Peninsula Total	500
Aleutian Islands	
Unimak District	3
Akutan District	3
Unalaska District	3
Umnak District	3
Adak District	3
Guideline Harvest Total ⁷	800

-Continued-

Table 2. (page 2 of 2).

¹The Aleutian Islands Management Area is open for exploration; no deliveries have ever been made from the Aleutian Islands.

²Portions of a section, district, or area may be closed if it is suspected that additional harvests in a given location will exceed 20% of the spawning biomass.

³All areas without guideline harvest levels are open for exploration. Harvests in these areas will be kept small until ADF&G is able to document the spawning biomass. For the Shumagin Islands, no more than 50 tons of herring will be allowed to be harvested from the waters near any single island in exploratory areas.

⁴Herring abundance in the Port Moller District is difficult to document. The guideline harvest levels listed may be conservative and reflect years when the observed abundance was low. The 1992 herring abundance may justify a larger catch than 500 tons, however to increase the guideline harvest level a larger than expected spawning biomass must be documented by ADF&G. Catches in the Port Heiden District will be counted against the Port Moller guideline harvest level if it is suspected that herring caught in the Port Heiden District were traveling to the Port Moller District.

⁵Herring harvested in the Deer Island Section of Herendeen Bay will be counted against the Herendeen Bay guideline harvest level.

⁶Herring harvested in the Bear River Section will be counted against the Port Moller and Herendeen Bays guideline harvest level if it is suspected that these herring were traveling into Port Moller or Herendeen Bays.

⁷Total does not include harvests that may occur in areas open for exploration.

indicate that a stock biomass is less than anticipated. Harvests in excess of their guideline harvest level will occur if the assessed available spawning biomass warrants continued catches. Closures will also be used to ensure that excessive harvests are minimized in exploratory situations.

The North Peninsula sac roe guideline harvest level has been reduced 14% (81 tons) to account for North Peninsula herring that are probably harvested during the Dutch Harbor food and bait fishery. Non-Togiak herring stocks comprise about 22% of the Dutch Harbor herring catch; due to the July 16 opening date of the food and bait fishery, North Peninsula herring stocks probably comprise the majority of the non-Togiak herring component (Funk 1991). The 1992 Dutch Harbor food and bait harvest allocation is 738 tons (K.A. Rowell, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage, personal communication). By assuming that 50% of the non-Togiak component of the harvest is North Peninsula stocks, the North Peninsula guideline harvest level will be reduced 81 tons during the sac roe fishery. The 81 ton reduction should insure that North Peninsula herring stocks are not harvested beyond a 20% exploitation rate.

In-season emergency orders will be broadcast on the single side band radio on 4125 and 3230 Khz and on the VHF radio on channel 6 and 70, or other channels if arrangements are made with the local representative of ADF&G. Current announcements will be available on the ADF&G record-a-phone at 383-2334.

Local Offices of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are:

Sand Point:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 129
Sand Point, AK 99661
phone (907) 383-2066
fax (907) 383-2606
record (907) 383-2334
VHF 6
Single Side Band 3230

Cold Bay:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571
phone (907) 532-2419
fax (907) 532-2470
VHF 6
Single Side Band 3230 and 4125

Port Moller:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
C/O Peter Pan Seafoods-Port Moller
Port Moller, AK
via: Cold Bay 99571-8999
phone (907) 987-2216
fax (907) 987-2215
VHF 70
Single Side Band 3230

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Registration Requirements

Tenders and Processors

Each tender operator and buyer-processor must register in person at an ADF&G office in Cold Bay, Sand Point, or Port Moller prior to buying or tendering herring (Appendix A). Catch reporting instructions will be explained in detail during registration. If registering in person causes undue inconvenience, other arrangements may be possible, but ADF&G in Cold Bay, Sand Point, or Port Moller must be contacted.

Fishing periods will be seven days per week and 24 hours per day. If monitoring of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Areas sac roe fisheries becomes impossible due to late catch reporting procedures, stringent in-season measures will be effected to insure that excessive harvests do not occur. Such measures may, but will not be limited to; frequent closures to assess fish tickets information, followed by notice (usually 24 hour) of the next fishing period. Failure to adhere to the reporting requirements specified on the tender registration form will result in a citation. Timely and accurate catch information provided by the processors will be essential in managing the fisheries. Processors and tender operators will be required to provide daily tallies of herring activities (report into ADF&G on a daily basis even if no herring were purchased) by area and must provide accurate estimates of herring onboard tenders that have not yet delivered to the processor. Individual codes will be provided for each tender or processor that will be involved in the fisheries.

Fish tickets from herring fisheries must be delivered to a local ADF&G commercial fishery representative prior to transporting herring out of any subarea (North and South Peninsula or Aleutian Islands), and before completing operations and leaving Management Area M. If delivering fish tickets directly to ADF&G personnel causes undue inconvenience, other arrangements can be made through contacting ADF&G at either Port Moller, Sand Point, or Cold Bay. For information and catch reporting during the herring sac roe fisheries in the Aleutian Islands west of Unimak contact ADF&G in Dutch Harbor on Single Side Band 4125 or VHF 6 radios.

Fishing Vessels

During the sac roe season there are no vessel registration requirements for fishing vessels. Fishermen must provide specific catch locations to buyers, so that it can be recorded on fish tickets. If active gear levels become excessive and the herring become susceptible to a harvest potentially exceeding the guideline harvest level the normal continuous open fishing periods may be changed to hourly openings followed by a long enough closure to collect, summarize, and update all harvest data.

Gill Net And Seine Specifications (5 AAC 27.631 and 5 AAC 27.632 in part)

During the herring sac roe season, the aggregate length of herring gill nets in use by a herring CFEC permit holder may not exceed 150 fathoms.

During the herring sac roe season, no purse seine may be more than 1,000 meshes in depth and more than 100 fathoms in length.

Aircraft

There is no restriction on the use of aircraft.

Cooperation

Fishermen, tender operators, and processor cooperation will be appreciated when ADF&G personnel request herring samples from the commercial catch, or from juvenile or spawnout schools inadvertently seined. These samples will be used for monitoring age composition, which assists in determining the health of a stock and in forecasting next years run strength. ADF&G will also be monitoring and mapping spawning activities and will be soliciting information on commercial sightings to supplement information gathered by ADF&G. Fishermen and spotter pilots are encouraged to provide biomass and spawning information to ADF&G; these reports will be treated confidentially. Past cooperation has been excellent and has proven valuable in evaluating stock status and in gaining management information.

North Peninsula

By emergency order (number 4-F-M-SP-01-92) the Port Heiden and Amak Districts commercial sac roe herring fishery is from April 15 through June 30. The Port Moller District will open for commercial herring fishing on May 30 and continue through June 30. North Peninsula herring sac roe fisheries will close on June 30, if sac roe stocks are discovered during the July 1 through July 15 time period, appropriate locations can be opened to herring sac roe fishing by emergency order. Fishing periods are continuous from the opening date of each fishery. However, ADF&G's ability to monitor herring fisheries becomes limited by mid-June, this may be a consideration in shortening fishing periods.

The season will close for each stock by emergency order as their respective guideline harvest levels are achieved, or when fishery performance and stock performance indicate that deviations from the guideline harvest levels are warranted (where actual harvests occur at levels greater or lesser than expected), or by July 1. Stocks which are considered under-exploited will remain open for adequate exploitation to occur or until July 1, the current emergency order closure date. During the sac roe season, stocks which have been closed to harvesting may be reopened if it is determined by ADF&G that more fish in

spawning condition have moved into the area, increasing the available spawning biomass to the point that the initial exploitation rate has dropped substantially below 20%. When considering reopening an area, ADF&G will consider effort and establish a new guideline harvest level.

The Port Heiden and Amak Districts will be open for continuous exploration. No reported catches nor biomass estimates have been made for the Port Heiden and Amak Districts. Guideline harvest levels have not been established for the Port Heiden and Amak Districts, and the Western and Deer Island Sections of the Port Moller District (Table 1). Catches from these areas will be kept small until an estimate is made of the stock biomass by ADF&G. ADF&G's monitoring of exploratory commercial activity will be accomplished by requiring industry to report catches and by ADF&G aerial surveys.

Wastage of herring occurred in the Port Moller District during the 1991 season. Herring had been feeding on krill and this resulted in unmarketable "belly burned" fish. If "belly burned" fish become a problem during the 1992 season, fishing periods will be shortened so that the daily processing capacity of the processor or processors present on the grounds will not be exceeded.

South Peninsula

By emergency order (number 4-F-M-SP-01-92) the Sand Point, Pavlof, and King Cove Districts commercial sac roe herring fishery is from April 15 through July 15. Fishing periods are continuous from the opening date of each fishery. However, ADF&G's ability to monitor herring fisheries becomes limited by mid-June, this may be a consideration in shortening fishing periods.

The season will close for each stock by emergency order as their respective guideline harvest levels are achieved, or when fishery performance and stock performance indicate that deviations from the guideline harvest levels are warranted (where actual harvests occur at levels greater or lesser than expected). Stocks which are considered under-exploited will remain open for adequate exploitation to occur or until the July 15 regulatory closure date. During the sac roe season, stocks which have been closed to harvesting may be reopened if it is determined by ADF&G that more fish in spawning condition have moved into the area, increasing the available spawning biomass to the point that the initial exploitation rate has dropped substantially below 20%. When considering reopening an area, ADF&G will consider effort and establish a new guideline harvest level.

The General Section (Shumagin Islands) of the Sand Point District, the Seal Cape-Wosnesenski Section of the Pavlof District, and the general Section of the King Cove District will be open for continuous exploration. No biomass estimates have been made for these sections, nor have guideline harvest levels been established. Catches from these sections will be kept small until an estimate is made of the stock biomass by ADF&G. ADF&G monitoring of exploratory commercial activity will be accomplished by requiring industry to report catches and by ADF&G aerial surveys.

Aleutian Islands

By emergency order (number 4-F-M-SP-01-92) the Unimak, Akutan, Unalaska, Umnak, and Adak Districts commercial sac roe herring fishery is from April 15 through June 15. Aleutian Islands herring sac roe fisheries will close on June 15, if sac roe stocks are discovered during the June 15 through July 15 time period, appropriate locations can be opened to herring sac roe fishing by emergency order. Fishing periods are continuous from the opening date of each fishery. However, ADF&G ability to monitor herring fisheries becomes limited by mid-June, this may be a consideration in shortening fishing periods.

Information on Aleutian herring spawning stocks is limited to Margarets Bay in Unalaska Harbor where a few herring in ripe condition were sampled by ADF&G in 1983 and 1984. No biomass estimates have been made of any Aleutian stocks, nor have guideline harvest levels have been established. If spawning stocks of herring are harvested the season will close for each stock by emergency order when fishery performance and stock performance indicate closures are warranted (where actual harvests occur at levels greater or lesser than expected). Stocks which are considered under-exploited will remain open for adequate exploitation to occur or until the June 15 emergency order closure date. During the sac roe season, stocks which have been closed to harvesting may be reopened if it is determined by ADF&G that more fish in spawning condition have moved into the area, increasing the available spawning biomass to the point that the initial exploitation rate has dropped substantially below 20%. When considering reopening an area, ADF&G will consider effort and establish a new guideline harvest level.

All Aleutian Islands Districts will be open for continuous exploration. Catches from these districts will be kept small until an estimate is made of the stock biomass by ADF&G. ADF&G's monitoring of exploratory commercial activity will be accomplished by requiring industry to report catches and by ADF&G aerial surveys.

LITERATURE CITED

- ADF&G (Alaska Department of Fish and Game). 1991. 1991 Commercial herring fishing regulations, 1991 edition. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Juneau.
- McCullough, J.N. 1991. Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Management Areas sac roe herring report and the Alaska Peninsula Management Area food and bait herring report, 1991. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 4K91-20, Kodiak.
- Funk, F.C. 1991. Overview of Bering Sea herring migration, stock status, and commercial fisheries. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 5J91-13, Juneau.

APPENDIX A

5 AAC 27.662 BUYER AND TENDER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

In addition to the requirements of 5 AAC 39.130(f) each tender operator and each buyer or his agents shall report in person to and register with a local representative of the department upon arrival in the statistical area (Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands) before commencing operations and before changing location of the operation. Each buyer shall:

- (1) identify all vessels to be employed in transporting or processing herring and shall register such vessels with a local representative of the department located in the statistical area before transporting or processing of herring;
- (2) make daily reports of all herring purchased from fishermen, and other processing records as specified by local representative of the department; and
- (3) submit fish tickets before departure from the area and no later than 10 days after termination of buying operations in the area, or as otherwise specified by a local representative of the department.

APPENDIX B

NEW REGULATIONS FOR 1992

Several district and section changes occurred during the Board of Fisheries meeting in October, 1991. These changes were made to make the herring districts and sections as close as possible to the salmon districts and sections. The following changes were approved by the board.

5 AAC 27.605 DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICTS AND SECTIONS. (a) Sand Point District: all waters on the south (Pacific) side of the Alaska Peninsula west of a line extending from 135° from Kupreanof Point (55°34' N. lat., 159°36' W. long.), and east of 160°59' W. long. (longitude of McGinty Point).

(1) Stepovak Bay section: all waters of the Sand Point district located west of a line extending from 135° from Kupreanof Point (55°34' N. lat., 159°36' W. long.), north of a line from approximately two nautical miles south of 135° from Kupreanof Point, west to 55°32'12" N. lat., 160°02'36" W. long., (approximately one nautical mile north of Karpa Island), and west to 55°26' N. lat., 160°31'30" W. long., (approximately two nautical miles south of the longitude of Swedania Point 160°31'30" W. long.).

(2) Swedania Point-Balboa Bay section: all waters of the Sand Point district located between 160°31'30" W. long. and 160°49' W. long., and north of 55°26' N. lat.

(3) Point Aliaksin-Beaver Bay section: all waters of the Sand Point district located between 160°49' W. long. and 160°59' W. long., and north of 55°26' N. lat.

(4) General section: all other waters of the Sand Point district.

(b) Pavlof District: all waters on the south (Pacific) side of the Alaska Peninsula between 160°59' W. long. and a line extending 150° from 55°05'54" N. lat., 161°59' W. long. through Inner and Outer Iliasik Islands, including Bear and Volcano Bays.

(1) Canoe Bay section: all waters of Canoe Bay east of 161°21'45" W. long.

(2) Pavlof Bay section: all waters of Pavlof Bay north of 55°21'42" N. lat. (latitude of Cape Tolstoi), excluding the Canoe Bay and Seal Cape-Wosnesenski sections.

(3) Seal Cape-Wosnesenski section: all waters of the Pavlof District located between 160°59' W. long. and 161°30' W. long. (longitude of Cape Tolstoi).

All other districts and sections remain the same as described in the 1991 commercial herring fishing regulation booklet.

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